

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 10, as amended, remain herein.

Applicants have chosen to place this application in condition for allowance in a manner suggested in the Office Action mailed February 25, 2005, namely, by adding the subject matter of originally filed claim 5 (and claim 4) to independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 4, 5 and 7-9 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. And, new claim 10 has been added to reinstate the subject matter of original claim 6. Thus, the subject matter of claims 1-3 and 10, as amended, corresponds to that of originally filed claims 5, and 1-4 and 6, all of which were already examined in this application.

Thus, since originally filed claim 5 had been stated to “be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims,” all claims 1-3 and 10 should now be fully in condition for allowance and are surely in better condition for any appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and allowance of all claims 1-3 and 10 are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-5 and 7-9 under §112, first paragraph, has been mooted by deletion of the questioned language.

The rejections of claims 1-4 and 7-9 under §103(a) have been mooted by adding the subject matter of allowable former claim 5 to independent claim 1, and thus effectively to all claims 1-3 and 10.

For all the foregoing reasons, all claims 1-3 and 10 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment and allowance of all claims 1-3 and 10 are respectfully solicited.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 194293 (Order No. 28954.1416).

Should the Examiner believe that additional changes could place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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